

PRIVATE RADIO SERVICE
SPECIAL

ORIGINAL

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Dear Mr. Haller,

MAR 20 1991

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Please ask the Field Operations Bureau to vacate the enforce actions taken against several Amateur Radio Service Pa Bulletin Board System (PBBS) operators on the East coast.

As you probably know, these actions are based on allegations their systems relayed a message from station WA3QNS that u those opposing U.S. policy in the Middle East to call an code 900 phone number to make a contribution.

I do not choose to discuss the propriety of originating message. Rather, I urge you to rescind the actions against PBBS operators.

As an extra-class radio amateur with more than 20 y experience in public service communications, I know that pa radio is unmatched for accuracy and throughput by any o medium. Automatic relay by PBBS and digipeater stations is very basis of packet radio operation.

Those who operate PBBS's and digipeaters perform a valu public service wihtout remuneration. To punish them in this would have two serious effects: First, many PBBS operators u simply abandon their services out of fear of possible enforce actions. Second, those who continued this much-needed work u have to review every single message in their systems be passing it on. This would drastically slow the traffic han by packet. Typically, message that takes a few hours today n take weeks to handle manually.

We do not arrest a bus driver because an escaping crim happens to ride his or her vehicle. The analogy is exa those who operate PBBS's assisted the station originating allegedly improper message only in the same way they assist other station. A city that arrested bus drivers on that b would soon have no busses. A nation that cites PBBS opera for performing a valuable public service will soon be without many benefits of packet radio.

In particular, Mr. Tom Clark, W3IWI is one of the outstan amateurs in the world today. His contributions, especiall the area of satellite communications, are without equal. nught not to be punished for helping others to communicate

Again, I urge you to ask FOB personnel to vacate the act taken against PBBS operators in this and in similar cases.

Thank you

Andrew R. Ellis

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February 25, 1991

Mr. Ralph Haller
Private Radio Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
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